

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

10/092,360

Examiner

Steven P Sax

Applicant(s)

SIMISTER ET AL.

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to amendment 3/7/05, and examiner's amendment 4/1/05.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 93-99, 101, 104-118, 120-123.
3. ☒ The drawings filed on 05 March 2002 are accepted by the Examiner.
4. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

5. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
 6. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
7. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. ☒ Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____
7. ☒ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____

Notice of Allowability

1. This application has been examined. The amendment filed 3/7/05 has been entered.

2. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. This was made to incorporate into the independent claims that the changing of appearances includes the unplanned changes to multiple items in a coordinated manner, and showing the intermediate stages of the changing of the appearances. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. - 92. (cancelled)

93. (currently amended) A method for providing a user interface, comprising:

sending a request for content from an Internet browser to a server;

receiving an interface engine in response to said request, said interface engine includes a set of views, layouts, constraints and animators;

receiving requests to change appearances of items displayed in said browser that are represented by said views; and

changing said appearances of said items in said browser by providing continuous fluid transitions of appearances of said items using said layouts,

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constraints and animators, said changing said appearances of said items includes making one or more unplanned changes to multiple items in a coordinated manner and showing intermediate steps of said changing of said appearances.

94. (previously presented) A method according to claim 93, wherein:
said requests to change appearances includes a request to change a position of a first item in said user interface.

95. (previously presented) A method according to claim 93, wherein:
said requests to change appearances includes a request to change a size of a first item in said user interface.

96. (previously presented) A method according to claim 93, wherein
said changing said appearances of said items includes:
calling one or more attribute modifiers; and
modifying a first view in response to said one or more attribute modifiers.

97. (previously presented) A method according to claim 96, wherein:
said calling one or more attribute modifiers includes calling a first animator to animate a property of said first view; and
said modifying a first view includes animating said property in response to said first animator.

98. (previously presented) A method according to claim 97, further comprising:
calling a constraint to modify an attribute in response to animating said property; and
modifying said attribute in response to said constraint.

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99. (previously presented) A method according to claim 96, wherein:
said first view identifies a set of child views;
said calling one or more attribute modifiers includes calling a layout to layout one or more of said child views; and
said modifying a first view includes laying out said one or more child views in response to said layout.

100. (cancelled)

101. (previously presented) A method according to claim 104, further comprising:

sending a request to a server via a network;
receiving an interface engine in response to said request to said server;
and

running said interface engine within said network browser, said implementing said requested change is performed by said interface engine.

102. (cancelled)

103. (cancelled)

104. (currently amended) A method for providing a user interface, comprising:

receiving a request to change an item displayed in a network browser from a first visual state to a second unplanned visual state, said item is associated with a first view of a set of views that comprise said user interface; and

implementing said requested change by providing continuous fluid transitions for said item from said first visual state to said second unplanned visual state, said continuous fluid transitions are performed by a method comprising calling one or more attribute modifiers for said first view and

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modifying said first view in response to said one or more attribute modifiers, said attribute modifiers includes layouts, constraints and animators, said implementing said requested change includes making one or more unplanned changes to appearances of multiple items in a coordinated manner and showing intermediate steps of said changes to appearances of said multiple items.

105. (previously presented) A method according to claim 104, wherein:
said first visual state pertains to a first position; and
said second unplanned visual state pertains to a second position.

106. (previously presented) A method according to claim 104, wherein:
said first visual state pertains to a first size; and
said second unplanned visual state pertains to a second size.

107. (currently amended) An apparatus that provides a user interface, comprising:

a storage device;

a communications interface in communication with a network;

a display; and

one or more processors in communication with said storage device, said communications interface and said display;

said one or more processors implement a browser that receives an interface engine from a server in communication with said browser via said network, said interface engine implements a user interface within said browser, said interface engine includes a set of views, layouts, constraints and animators;

said browser receives a requests to change appearances of items displayed in said browser that are represented by said views and changes said appearances by providing continuous fluid transitions of appearances of said items using said layouts, constraints and animators, said changing said appearances includes making one or more unplanned changes to appearances

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of multiple items in a coordinated manner and showing intermediate steps of said changes to appearances of said multiple items.

108. (previously presented) An apparatus according to claim 107, wherein:

said requests to change appearances includes a request to change a position of an item in said user interface.

109. (previously presented) An apparatus according to claim 107, wherein:

said requests to change appearances includes a request to change a size of an item in said user interface.

110. (previously presented) An apparatus according to claim 107, wherein said changing said appearances of said items includes:

calling one or more attribute modifiers, said attribute modifiers includes said layouts, constraints and animators; and

modifying a first view in response to said one or more attribute modifiers.

111. (previously presented) An apparatus according to claim 110, wherein:

said calling one or more attribute modifiers includes calling a first animator to animate a property of said first view; and

said modifying a first view includes animating said property in response to said first animator.

112. (previously presented) An apparatus according to claim 111, wherein:

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said interface engine calls a constraint to modify an attribute in response to animating said property and modifies said attribute in response to said constraint.

113. (currently amended) One or more processor readable storage devices having code embodied on said one or more processor readable storage devices, said code for programming one or more processors to perform a method comprising:

 sending a request for content from an Internet browser to a server;

 receiving an interface engine in response to said request, said interface engine includes a set of views, layouts, constraints and animators;

 receiving requests to change appearances of items displayed in said browser that are represented by said views; and

 changing said appearances of said items in said browser by providing continuous fluid transitions of appearances of said items using one or more attribute modifiers, said attribute modifiers include said layouts, constraints and animators, said changing said appearances of said items includes making one or more unplanned changes to multiple items in a coordinated manner and showing intermediate steps of said changing of said appearances.

114. (previously presented) One or more processor readable storage devices according to claim 113, wherein:

 said requests to change appearances includes a request to change a position of a first item in said user interface.

115. (previously presented) One or more processor readable storage devices according to claim 113, wherein:

 said requests to change appearances includes a request to change a size of a first item in said user interface.

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116. (previously presented) One or more processor readable storage devices according to claim 113, wherein:

said changing said appearances includes calling a first animator to animate a property of a first view.

117. (previously presented) One or more processor readable storage devices according to claim 113, wherein:

said changing said appearances further includes calling a first constraint to modify an attribute of a first view in response to a second view.

118. (previously presented) One or more processor readable storage devices according to claim 113, wherein:

said changing said appearances includes changing a first view;

said first view identifies a set of child views; and

said changing a first view includes calling a layout to layout one or more of said child views.

119. (cancelled)

120. (currently amended) One or more processor readable storage devices having code embodied on said one or more processor readable storage devices, said code for programming one or more processors to perform a method comprising:

receiving a request to change an item displayed in a network browser from a first visual state to a second unplanned visual state; and

implementing said requested change by providing continuous fluid transitions for said item from said first visual state to said second unplanned visual state;

said code includes views, layouts, constraints and animators;

said item is associated with a first view;

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said continuous fluid transitions are provided by a method comprising calling one or more attribute modifiers for said first view and modifying said first view in response to said one or more attribute modifiers;

said one or more attribute modifiers includes said layouts, constraints and animators;

said implementing said requested change includes making one or more unplanned changes to appearances of multiple items in a coordinated manner and showing intermediate steps of said changes to appearances of said multiple items.

121. (currently amended) One or more processor readable storage devices having code embodied on said one or more processor readable storage devices, said code for programming one or more processors to perform a method comprising:

receiving a request to change an item displayed in a network browser from a first visual state to a second unplanned visual state; and

implementing said requested change by providing continuous fluid transitions for said item from said first visual state to said second unplanned visual state;

said code includes views, layouts, constraints and animators;

said item is associated with a first view;

said continuous fluid transitions are provided by calling one or more animators to animate said first view in response to said request to change;

said calling one or more animators includes informing said one or more animators of said second unplanned visual state;

said implementing said requested change includes making one or more unplanned changes to appearances of multiple items in a coordinated manner and showing intermediate steps of said changes to appearances of said multiple items.

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122. (currently amended) One or more processor readable storage devices according to claim 120, wherein:

said first visual state pertains to a first position; and

said second unplanned visual state pertains to a second position.

123. (currently amended) One or more processor readable storage devices according to claim 120, wherein:

said first visual state pertains to a first size; and

said second unplanned visual state pertains to a second size.

3. Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Mr. Burt Magen on 4/1/05.

4. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:
The amendment filed 3/7/05 and the examiner's amendment 4/1/05 put the application into condition for allowance by incorporating into all the independent claims that the layouts, constraints, and animators are all used (3/7/05 amendment), which together with the incorporation that the changes are unplanned (examiner's amendment 4/1/05) overcomes any video playback art. Furthermore, the incorporation that the unplanned changes in appearances are to multiple items in a coordinated manner and such that the intermediate stages of the changing of appearances are shown (examiner's amendment 4/1/05) in the network browser by the interface engine further overcomes any issues with

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Orbanes et al and any remaining prior art. The claims as now recited are not set forth in the prior art of record.

Independent claims: 93 amended – method. 104 amended – method bringing out the attribute modifiers. 107 amended – apparatus. 113 amended – processor readable storage devices with code. 120 amended – processor readable storage devices with code, bringing out the attribute modifiers. 121 amended – processor readable storage devices with code, bringing out calling the animators.

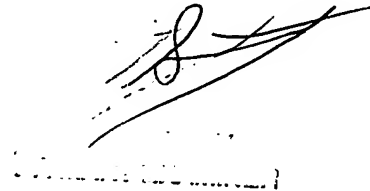
Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled “Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance.”

5. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Steven P Sax whose telephone number is (571) 272-4072. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday thru Friday, 8:30 AM - 5:00 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Kristine Kincaid can be reached on (571) 272-4063. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "S. J. [unclear]", with a stylized flourish extending from the end.